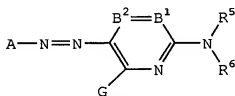


IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An ink composition comprising at least water, at least one member selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by formula (1) shown below and a salt thereof, and at least one member selected from the group consisting of an aromatic compound having a carboxyl group and a salt thereof:

Formula (1):

[Chem. 1]

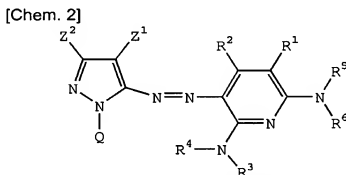


wherein A represents a residue of a 5-membered heterocyclic diazo component A-NH₂; B¹ and B² each represents -CR¹= or -CR²=, or either one of B¹ and B² represents a nitrogen atom and the other represents -CR¹= or -CR²=; R⁵ and R⁶ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxy carbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group, and each group may further have a substituent; G, R¹ and R² each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxy carbonyl group, an acyl group, a hydroxy group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a silyloxy group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an alkoxycarbonyloxy group, an aryloxy carbonyloxy group, an amino

group substituted by an alkyl, aryl or heterocyclic group, an acylamino group, a ureido group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkoxycarbonylamino group, an aryloxycarbonylamino group, an alkylsulfonylamino group, an arylsulfonylamino group, a nitro group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, an alkylsulfinyl group, an arylsulfinyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfo group or a heterocyclic thio group, and each group may be further substituted; and R¹ and R⁵, or R⁵ and R⁶ may combine to form a 5- or 6-membered ring.

Claim 2 (Original) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said compound represented by formula (1) or a salt thereof is a compound represented by the following formula (2) or a salt thereof:

Formula (2):



wherein Z¹ represents an electron-withdrawing group having a Hammett's substituent constant σ value of 0.20 or more; Z² represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group or a heterocyclic group; R¹, R², R⁵ and R⁶ have the same meanings as in formula (1); R³ and R⁴ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl

group, a carbamoyl group, a sulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group; Q represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group or a heterocyclic group; and the groups represented by Z¹, Z², R¹ to R⁶ and Q may each further have a substituent.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the content ratio of said at least one member selected from a compound represented by formula (1) and a salt thereof and said at least one member selected from an aromatic compound having a carboxyl group and a salt thereof is from 4:1 to 1:10 in terms of weight ratio of respective total amounts.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said aromatic compound having a carboxyl group or a salt thereof is a compound having a naphthalene skeleton or a salt thereof.

Claim 5 (Original) The ink composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein said compound having a naphthalene skeleton or a salt thereof is a compound having a carboxyl group at its 2-position or a salt thereof.

Claim 6 (Original) The ink composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said compound having a carboxyl group at its 2-position and having a naphthalene skeleton or a salt thereof is a 2-naphthoic acid, a 3-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 6-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 6-methoxy-2-naphthoic acid, or a salt thereof.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein said salt of the aromatic compound having a carboxyl group is a lithium salt.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) An inkjet recording method comprising ejecting a liquid droplet of ~~the~~ an ink composition according to claim 1, and attaching said liquid droplet onto a recording medium, thereby performing the recording, ~~wherein the ink composition claimed in claim 1 is used as the ink composition.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) Recorded matter which is recorded with the ink composition claimed claim 1 ~~or by the recording method claimed in claim 10.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) Recorded matter which is recorded ~~with the ink composition claimed claim 10~~ or by the recording method claimed in claim 10.